

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AF-10 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

DRC-01 NIC-01 /189 W

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R 220105Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1368

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5002

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, RQ

SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN UNGA: AMB. BENNETT'S TALK WITH
FOURTH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DIAZ GONZALEZ

REF: USUN 4895

1. AT HIS REQUEST, AMB. BENNETT MET NOV. 20 WITH FOURTH
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DIAZ GONZALEZ (VENEZUELAN DEPUTY PERM REP)
TO DISCUSS DIAZ GONZALEZ STATEMENT ON PUERTO RICO IN FOURTH
COMMITTEE NOV. 16 (REFTEL). BENNETT PRESSED POINT THAT NO
UN BODY, NOT EVEN COMMITTEE OF 24, HAD RULED THAT
PUERTO RICO WAS A "COLONY" AND THAT, THEREFORE, UN RES 748
STILL VALID. BENNETT ALSO NOTED DIAZ GONZALEZ REMARKS
AS QUOTED IN UN OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION PRESS RELEASE
(SUMMARY TRANSCRIPT OF FOURTH COMMITTEE MEETING NOT YET
AVAILABLE) TO EFFECT THAT "FOURTH COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE
IN ITS OBJECTIVE TO CONSIDER TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL
DOMINATION, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE PUERTO RICO."

2. DIAZ GONZALEZ SAID THAT HIS NOV. 16 STATEMENT SHOULD
NOT BE CONSIDERED A RULING OR COMMITTEE DECISION
ESTABLISHING ANY PRECEDENT BUT MERELY A "CLARIFICATION" OF
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REASONS BEHIND HIS DECISION NOV. 14 TO ALLOW CUBAN DELEGATE

TO CONTINUE SPEAKING IN SPITE OF US POINT OF ORDER. HE
THOUGHT AMB. SHITE'S STATEMENT TO COMMITTEE NOV. 16
THAT "WE CANNOT IN THIS COMMITTEE MAKE A MOCKERY OF PLENARY
DECISIONS" WAS AIMED AT HIM AS CHAIRMAN AND THEREFORE
HE FELT IT NECESSARY TO ELABORATE HIS POSITION. HE
ASSERTED OPI SUMMARY OF HIS REMARKS WERE INACCURATE SINCE
HE HAD NOT COMMENTED ON SUBSTANCE OF PUERTO RICAN ISSUE
AND THAT SUMMARY RECORD OF COMMITTEE, WHICH WOULD CARRY
HIS REMARKS IN EXTENSO, (AT HIS REQUEST) WOULD CORRECT
THIS. HE AGREED TO TAKE UP "MISQUOTE" WITH OPI. HE NOTED
THAT HIS STATEMENT MADE SOLELY IN HIS CAPACITY AS
CHAIRMAN AND DID NOT REPRESENT IN ANY WAY VENEZUELAN
POSITION REGARDING PUERTO RICO.

3. COMMENT: WE CURIOUS TO SEE "OFFICIAL" UN PRINTED
VERSION OF DIAZ GONZALEZ REMARKS SINCE WE AND OTHERS
HEARD HIM MAKE STATEMENT IDENTICAL TO THAT IN OPI QUOTE.
NEVERTHELESS, WEMILDLY ENCOURAGED BY HIS STRATEGIC RETREAT
FROM PUBLIC COMMITMENET TO IDEA THAT PUERTO RICO IS A COLONY
AND BY HIS INSISTENCE THAT HIS NOV. 16 REMARKS CONSTITUTE
MERELY AN EXPLANATION RATHER THAN A SUBSTANTIVE RULING.
BENNETT

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